Tariff rates for electricity

2083. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are no uniform tariff rates for electricity for the agricultural consumers in the various States in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to have uniform tariff rates for electricity to the agricultural consumers through the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. There are no uniform tariff rates for electricity for the agricultural consumers in various States.

(b) and (c) Under the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the power to fix tariff for various categories of consumers is vested in the State Electricity Boards/State Electricity Departments.

Saving foreign exchange due to weak trend in International crude price

2084. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much the country is expected to save in foreign exchange this year with current weak trend in international crude oil price expected to continue till the end of the year;

(b) what has been the actual drop in international price of crude in last six months; and

(c) what would be the country's import of crude oil this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Imports to be effected during January—March 1986 are estimated to cost less by Rs. 135 crores relative to average cost for April—December, 1985. It is not possible at this stage to estimate the savings on this account till the end of the year.

(b) As the spot prices of different grades of crude are showing diverse trends, it is not possible to estimate the actual drop in prices.

(c) It is proposed to import a quantity of 14.6 million tonnes of crude oil during 1986.

Fire in Cochin Refinery

2085. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD,
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire and explosion took place in Cochin Refinery on February 28, this year;

(b) if so, the details of the loss incurred to the life and property thereby;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) At about 21.15 hrs. on 27th February, 1986 a fire occurred in the Naphtha Caustic Wash facilities and LPG Recovery system of the primary manufacturing unit in Cochin Refineries

(b) Four employees sustained burn injuries of which three subsequently succumbed to their injuries. The fourth employee is reported to be improving in the hospital. Loss of property is estimated at about Rs. 20 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A committee of senior officials was constituted by the management to investigate the incident and report. The report has been received and is under examination of the CRL management.